

still worse, it allows the patient to accommodate himself to the position, so as to render extension nugatory. I have seen the patient turn right around, with the perineal band, and accomodate himself so ingeniously that the malposition became as bad as if there had been no restraint whatever.

Davis, Vedder and Barwell, have successively suggested *portative extension apparatus* to obviate the confinement of the patient. The honor of the original suggestion is entirely due to Davis, and the merits of the same ought to be liberally accorded to him, for it certainly has broken the ice of the scrofulous heresy, and paved the way to the rational ideas of therapeutics, which *had been previously advanced*, but disregarded up to that time. Sayre, though strictly speaking, but an exponent of Davis, nevertheless deserves some credit for the adroitness with which he has propagated and popularized the instrument, which seemed to have been an elephant in the hands of the inventor.

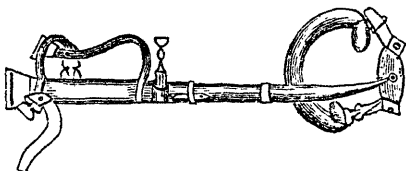


Fig. 3.

Davis's instrument as improved by Sayre is here shown (fig. 3.) But all the before named apparatus are at fault in one essential point: they neither fix the affected joint, nor do they prevent the adduction of the extremity. The amount of extension exercised by them is, moreover, very insignificant, and if it was fifty times as much, it could not separate the articular surfaces of the hip joint, as is erroneously claimed by their respective authors. Besides they depend on adhesive strips for their fastenings, which do not stick well in cold weather, and easily slip in warm. Sayre's modification to circumvent the affected extremity with a semi-circular addition at the lower end of the instrument, so as to gain two purchases and two fastenings, was an acceptable improvement in the adjustment, but no more.*

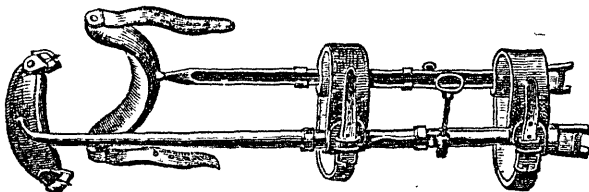


Fig. 4.

* The latest contrivance of this kind is that of Dr. Taylor, of New York. He needed not to have gone to the expense of a patent (!) because it offers no superior inducements and is not likely to be employed by any one else.